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science in Hanover College, Ind. It consisted of four pages and the first volume contained only 52 pages of short and mostly local notes. The name of the journal was changed to the *Botanical Gazette* at the end of the second volume, and M. S. Coulter became one of the editors. In 1883 the editorship was undertaken by the present editors, John M. Coulter, Charles R. Barnes and J. C. Arthur, under whose control the journal has steadily improved up to the present time, when the name of G. F. Atkinson, V. M. Spalding, Roland Thaxter and William Trelease have been added as associate editors. As Dr. Bessey says, the *Gazette* "has thus been a growth, and it represents to-day much more than so many pages of printed matter. It has grown and developed as the science of botany has grown and developed in this country. When we look over the earlier volumes with surprise at the little notes which fill the pages we must not forget that American botany had not then generally risen above such contributions. It is true that we had a few masters in the science, with Dr. Gray still in his prime, but these masters wrote little for general reading, and their technically systematic contributions were mostly published in the proceedings of learned societies. The one thing which stands out to-day in sharp contrast with the botany of two decades ago is the very great increase in the number of masters in the science who are making liberal contributions from many different departments. The many-paged *Gazette* of to-day, with its rich variety of matter, differs no more from the four-page *Bulletin* of 1876 than does the botany of the two periods."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It is reported by cablegram that Alfred Nobel, the Swedish engineer and chemist, who died at San Remo, Italy, on December 9th, left a will bequeathing his entire fortune, amounting to about \$10,000,000, to the Stockholm University.

The will of the late Henry L. Pierce, distributes about three and a-quarter million dollars in public bequests, which include \$50,000 to Harvard University and \$50,000 to Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

DR. JOHN J. McNULTY has been appointed

professor of moral and intellectual philosophy in the College of the City of New York.

THE new catalogue of Harvard University shows a registration of 3,674 students, an increase of 74 over last year. There has been a slight decrease in the College, but a gain in the Lawrence Scientific School, in the Graduate School and in the Medical School. There has been an increase of 4 professors and 17 instructors.

At Cambridge University the report of the General Board of Studies, recommending that steps be taken for the immediate appointment of a professor of mental philosophy and logic, was opposed upon financial grounds and because the establishment of the professorship was not urgent. The report was, however, adopted, by 120 votes to 70. The offer of Prof. Sidgwick to reduce his stipend as professor of moral philosophy from £700 to £500 per annum from the time of the appointment of the professor of mental philosophy and logic until midsummer, 1902, or until his chair be vacated, if that should occur before midsummer, 1902, was accepted.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

VAN BENEDEN AND THE ORIGIN OF THE CENTROSOME.—A CORRECTION.

I WISH to correct an error in my recent book on 'The Cell,' which misrepresents Van Beneden's early views regarding the origin of the centrosomes in the fertilized egg. At page 157 the view, or rather surmise, is attributed to him that, in the fertilization of *Ascaris*, one centrosome of the first cleavage-amphiaster is derived from the egg, the other from the spermatozoon. I am indebted to my friend, Prof. Conklin, for pointing out that through a misapprehension of Van Beneden's meaning I am in error on this point. Van Beneden did not, in fact, commit himself to any positive conclusion, but at page 272 of his paper of 1887 expressed the opinion that both attraction-spheres, and hence by implication both centrosomes, were derived from the egg, *i. e.*, from the second pseudo-karyokinetic (maturation) figure. Later researches, it is true, have almost conclusively shown that this opinion cannot be sustained;